

COUNCIL MINUTES

Special Joint Meeting with Parks & Recreation Commission July 12, 2011

Mayor Don Gerend called the regular meeting of the Sammamish City Council to order at 6:30 pm.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Don Gerend, Deputy Mayor Tom Odell, Councilmembers Mark Cross, John Curley, John James, Michele Petitti and Nancy Whitten.

Staff present: City Manager Ben Yazici, Public Works Director Laura Philpot, City Engineer Jeff Brauns, Sr. Stormwater Engineer Eric LaFrance, Assistant City Manager/Community Development Director Kamuron Gurol, Parks & Recreation Director Jessi Richardson, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director Linda Frkuska, Project Manager Anjali Myer, and City Clerk Melonie Anderson.

Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance

Roll was called. Planning Commissioner Chair Hank Klein led the pledge.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION: Councilmember James moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Whitten seconded.

AMENDMENT: Deputy Mayor Odell moved to amend the agenda by removing Items #1-Bid Award for the West Parking and Room 202 Tenant Improvements and Item #3-School Zone Cameras from the agenda. Councilmember James seconded. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

Public Comment

Laverne Nelson, 23344 NE 25th Way, She was not supportive of the city building a community center. She said it is clear the city is in financial trouble. They should not be considering a community center. She would like to know the projected costs for the community center and the town center.

Robert Nielson, 2311 277th Avenue, He explained that the primary reason the neighborhoods of Aldarra/Montaine wanted to annex to Sammamish was due to their 10-year history of fiscal responsibility. He does appreciate the fact that he is able to come and express his viewpoint to the Council.

Unfinished Business - None

New Business

~~Authorize the City Manager to award a contract for construction of the West Parking Lot and Construction of the "Shell" and Tenant Improvements to City Hall Room 202~~

Community Center Feasibility Discussion

Parks Director Jessi Richardson opened up the discussion. The consulting team of BRS led the Council through a PowerPoint presentation (*available on the city's website at www.ci.sammamish.wa.us*). The presentation provided an overview of the project, updated project costs, the selected site for the building and a refined design.

Public Works Director Laura Philpot and City Engineer Jeff Brauns explained the roadway improvements that will be necessary to accommodate the Community Center if it is located at the Kellman site.

Senior Stormwater Program Engineer Eric LaFrance explained the stormwater requirements that will need to be met if the building is located at the Kellman site.

Councilmember James wondered if the community is really willing to fund such an expensive enterprise. Councilmember Curley thinks the city should help a private company build the community center by giving them the land, waiving the taxes, etc. and see if there is a company out there willing to take on the business of building and operating a community center. Councilmember Whitten cannot support a \$65 million community center going to the voters. She would like to look into partnering with the YMCA. She would be supportive of a less expensive building. Councilmember Cross thinks that a private sector company will not provide the community space that a city operated center would provide. He suggested that the project could be dialed down to something the voters could support. Parks Commissioner Judy Peterson agreed that perhaps the pools could be phased in at a later date. The consultant confirmed that the pool could easily be done in phases. Mayor Gerend believes the success of the community center in Newcastle predicts how successful one would be in Sammamish. Deputy Mayor Odell feels that the city has many amenities that don't pay for themselves, but they make the city a better place to live. He feels the community center will enhance the quality of life in Sammamish. He expressed the opinion that this matter must come before the voters. Councilmember Petitti expressed "sticker shock" over the figures mentioned today. She said she would be more supportive of something in the range of \$30 to \$35 million. Parks Commission Chair Hank Klein does not want to pare the facility down any more than is necessary to get voter approval.

Public Comment

Robert Nielson (Spoke previously), He thinks the \$60 million price tag is unacceptable. He doesn't feel there is a need for additional community space. Perhaps the community space does not have to be in the in community center.

Mike Collins, He urged the Council to continue to support the design standards of the Town Center. If the cost of the underground parking lot is unacceptable, then make it a pay parking lot. He suggests that the street improvements be paid for through the city budget. He is extremely supportive of the plan, but hopes that the city will require the community center to conform to the Town Center Development regulations.

Kari Dure, 22319 NE 6th Court, She thinks the plan as presented is good, but does not feel that this is the right time to build such an elaborate facility. She thinks the pools could be eliminated completely. She feels that some elements could be phased in over time.

Skip Sackett, 2401 233rd, He thinks that the cost of this facility is being underrated. He feels there are going to be many additional fees. He does not feel the road improvements as proposed are really necessary. He is concerned that revenue forecasts that include 20% non-residents are not valid.

Nicki Beedle 20807 NE 8th Street, She was supportive of the Community Center. She thinks it will meet an unmet need. She is supportive of it being located in the Town Center. She does feel that the project should be scaled back by eliminating the pools.

Terry Rothbauer, 2204 216th Avenue SE, She questioned the cost recovery rate the consultants predicted. She said that this is an issue of want and not need. She thinks the city should wait until the Teen Center opens to see what the usage will be.

Jim Wasnick, 22613 SE 32nd Street, He feels this plan is too expensive. He thinks phasing should be considered. He thinks options need to be considered to reduce the costs. He feels it is too costly to locate it in the Town Center.

Roger Benson, 21923 NE 1st Street, He feels the community needs a gathering space like the community center. He thinks the price of the building could be reduced dramatically by locating it in another part of the city.

Ramiro Valderrama, NE 18th Place, He feels the community center, with an aquatics center is wanted by the community. He thinks the plan being presented is too expensive. He advocated going back to other partners and the residents for ideas on how this cost can be reduce. He would like to see the city out of the operations and maintenance of such a facility.

Susan Richardson, She is confused about what the community wants. She feels these are very uncertain times. Given the confusion, she recommended more study and more input from the residents.

Marcia Isenberger, YMCA, She explained that the YMCA is happy to partner with the City in whatever way they need, from operational assistance to fund raising.

~~School Zone Cameras – Discovery Elementary~~

Executive Session – Personnel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

Council retired to Executive Session at 9:45 pm and returned at 10:15 pm. No action was taken.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 pm

Melonie Anderson, City Clerk

Donald J. Gerend, Mayor